

## [Mrs. W. R. Larson]

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FORM A Circumstances of Interview.

NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss ADDRESS 6934 Francis St. Lincoln Neb

DATE SUBJECT Folklore American English. Lincoln.

1. Name and address of informant. Mrs. W. R. Larson, 50th & Vine, Lincoln Neb.

2. Date and time of interview. Sept. 29, Oct. 1.

3. Place of interview. Home of informant.

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

Arthur Muschamps, 2429 D St. Lincoln.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. (None)

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Living room. house of American type (early 20th century) average, surroundings, rural, usual type of small buildings in yard. This kind of place is ordinarily known as an acreage or small truck farm. House is well furnished piano, etc. Aged mother of informant lives upstairs of house but does not receive any visitors. House shows the activities of many children. Sort of worn appearance. [???

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss ADDRESS 6934 Francis St. Lincoln St.

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DATE SUBJECT Folklore (English-American)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. W. R. Larson. 56th & Vine St. Lincoln

1. Ancestry. English Scotch
2. Place and date of birth. Kent England, Sept. 13, 1891.
3. Family. 12 children—11 living, husband and mother 7 brothers & sisters.
4. Place lived in, with dates. Kent, England 1891 to 1907 Lincoln, Nebr. 1907 to date. Informants father came to Nebraska in 1874 and returned to [?].
5. Education, with dates. Church School (Episcopal) 1896 to 1905.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Worked as apprentice in home. 1906-1907. General Housework and raising children. 1907 to date.
7. Special skills and interests. Mostly home and family work. Has raised big family and likes children and the care of them.
8. Community and religious activities. Neighborly work, active in Episcopal church.
9. Description of informant. Large, buxom with broad features energetic, rapid talker, enthusiastic talks with the English accent, somewhat blurred and some Scotch dialect.
10. Other points gained in interview. Some of her conversation is not readily understood and requires repeating. The English influence seems strong. Very practical minded and more or less direct and to the point. leaves off talking abruptly. Is somewhat class conscious and home minded an would be natural.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

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NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss ADDRESS 6934 Francis Lincoln Nebr.

DATE Oct. SUBJECT Folklore Nebraska-English

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. W.R. Larson 56th & Vine St. Lincoln Neb

My early life was, of course, spent in England. The family was large, There were 10 children 7 of whom are still living. My mother is too old and sick to tell anything about her life, but she was well educated and was very active during most of her 90 years she was born in London (Woodford).

In England they did many things very different from here. The schools were not mixed, that is the boys went to one part and the girls to another. There was even an iron fence between the playgrounds. We used to sing a great deal.

'sweatheart [?]' When you grow big some day You may Marry another And my love betray.  
But I'll wait for you. And then we shall see What you will say, When I Ask you to marry me.

The English schools used to teach many patriotic songs and songs with a moral to them. These are song by the English wherever they go.

'the Childrens Home' They played in a beautiful garden The children of high degree  
Outside the gate, the beggars passed on, In all their misery But there was one of the  
children Who could not join the play. And a little beggar maiden Watched for him day by  
day.

2

Once he had given her a flower And Oh! how she smiled to see Her thin white hands on  
the railing Stretched out so eagerly. She came again to the garden And saw the children  
play But the little white face had vanished The little feet gone away. She crept away to a  
corner Down by the murky stream Put that pale, pale face in the garden Shone thru her

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restless dream. Now that high born child and the beggar Passed homeward side by side  
For the ways of men are narrow, But the gates of heaven are wide.

This piece was always very impressive to me as a child and teaches us not to look down on the poor folks. Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, For time is still a flying And the same flower that blooms today Tomorrow may be dying That age is best, which is the first When youth and blood are warmer But being spent the worse and worse time Still success the former. Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.

People used many old expressions but I do not remember them except those that we still use sometime

Cast no clout

Till may be out'. Meaning 'dont change your winter clothes too early.' [?] think much sickness comes from eating wrong food, too much meat etc.

When cars came into use it seemed as if more people fell sick with appendicitis.

When someone died, sometimes they would hold the body for 10 days or until they turned blue.

3

At a christening, there was a Godfather and Godmother present.

For a wedding the bans were posted in the church for 3 weeks before.

No weddings were held on Sunday.

The day after Christmas, was called 'Boxing Day' and people had their fun on this day since Christmas day itself was observed in a religious way.

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On Ash Wednesday, people eat hash.

On Shrove Tuesday they eat pancakes. This is called Pancake Day in England.

Stewed steak is quite popular.

Yorkshire Pudding is a batter pudding cooked in the oven and then eaten with Gravy.

Suet puddings are very economical and nourishing. We make them all the time.

Chop suet, mix with flour baking powder fruit. Boil in a cloth.

Fly paper peddlers used to go along the streets giving this cry. 'tormenting flies' Catch 'em alive.

There were very few flys in England. We always have out tea at 4 oclock the same time as in England.

Tea is more used than coffee by the English.

English Patriotic Song. Before all lands in east or west I love my native land the best I honor every nations name Respect their fortune and their fame But I love the land that bore me. Before all tongues in east or west. I love my countrymen's the Best.

My mother made all her remedies for sickness and we seldom had to get a doctor.

Ipecac, wine, laudanum and black syrup and vinegar was a fine cough and throat remedy. It was used for croup a lot.

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Supplementary. Mrs. Larsons mother was highly educated and her father was premiere secretary and guard to Sir John Drummond in Scotland. She, once, was chosen to dance with Queen Victoria's son.

KING BRUCE OF SCOTLAND King Bruce of Scotland, Threw himself down in a lowly mood to think Tis true he was a monarch and wore a crown. [But?] his heart was beginning to break. For he had been trying to do a great deed. To make his people glad He had tried and tried and couldnt succeed And so he became quite sad. He flung himself down in love despair As grieved as man could be And after a while as he pondered there 'I give it all up says he' Just at that moment, a spider dropped With its silken cobweb cane. And the king in the midst of his thinking Stopped to see what the spider would do. It soon began to cling and crawl Straight up with strong endeavor Then down it came, with a slipping sprawl As near to the ground as ever.

5

Up, up it ran, nor a second did stay To offer the least complaint, Till it fell still lower and there it lay, A little Dizzy and faint. Its head grow steady, again it went And traveled a half yard higher And the brave little run, put him into his native cot. Bravo! Bravo! The king cried out. All honor to those who try, The spider up there defied despair Be conquered, Why shouldnt I. And Bruce of Scotland, braced his mind And gossips tell the tale, He tried once more as he had tried before And this time he did not fail.

Moral: So whenever your find your heart despair of doing some goodly thing Con over this strain Try bravely again And remember the spider and king.

6

Twass a summers evening Old Caspars work was done. And he before his cottage door Was sitting in the sun. And by him, sported on the green His little grandchild, Willamine. She saw her brother Peterkin Roll something large and round. Which be beside the rivulet, In playing there had found. He came to ask what he had found That was so large and

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smooth and loud. Old Caspar took it from the boy Who stood expectant by, And then the old man shook his head And with a natural sigh. 'tis some poor fellows skull' said he Who fell in the great victory. I find them in the garden For theres many here about, And often when I go to plow, The plow shear turns them out.

7

Now tell us all about the war, And what they fought each other for. 'twas the English' Caspar cried Who put the French to route But what they fought each other for, I cannot well make out. For miles around the country, Was wasted far and wide. And many a child and mother then With her new born baby died. Great praise to the Duke of Marlborough Won, And all good Prince Eugene. 'Why, twas a very wicked thing' said little williamine 'Nay nay my little girl ' quoth he It was a grand and glorious victory.